(b) Considering the large number of admissions/deaths reported on account of suspected Dengue/DHF in Delhi hospitals, the Government of NCT of Delhi was told to treat the situation as epidemic.

(c) and (d) On the request of the Govt. of Delhi, Malathion Technical, Pyrethrum Extract and Fogging machines have been made available by the Directorate of National Malaria Eradication Programme to undertake vector control measures. Centrifuge machines to augment blood component separation facilities were also arranged for hospitals in Delhi including Indian Red Cross Society.

Air Services Agreement

*373. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Air Services Agreement between India and Hong Kong has been signed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The air services operations between India and Hong Kong were earlier regulated by the India-U.K. Air Services Agreement. A separate Air Services Agreement has now been signed between India and Hng Kong on 10th October, 1996. As per this Agreement, one or more airline(s) may be designated by each side for operation of air services between India and Hong Kong. At present the Hong Kong side is entitled to operate 4 services and the Indian side 5 services on the agreed routes.

Poor Industrial activity forcing Companies to Abandon Equity Issue Plans

*374. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poor industrial activity in the country has forced about 265 companies to abandon their equity issue plans;

(b) if so, whether Government have gone into the causes of this unprecedented setback to the share market; and

(c) if so, the details of the same and steps taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) According to Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), it had issued during the period January to June, 1996 acknowledgement cards/observations to 932 companies for making issues of securities in the stock market. Out of these, 141 companies did not make the proposed issue.

(b) and (c) The situation in the industrial sector and in the stock market is constantly reviewed by the Government and other agencies such as the Securities and Exchange Board of India. The stock market has remained relatively subdued during the recent months on account of a variety of factors such as expectations of investors, financial results of some companies and uncertainties. The main concern of Government's policy towards the stock market is the ensure that it operates in a fair and transparent manner and in full compliance with various relevant laws, rules and regulations. Government and SEBI are committed to introducing reforms in the stock market on a continuous basis for enhancing investor confidence in the market.

Fresh Survey to Install VLPT at Basot

*375. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to undertake fresh survey to install VLPT at

Basot. As per recommendations of District Magistrate. Almora;

(b) whether Government have turned down the proposal;

(c) if so, on what grounds and at what level;

(d) whether Government are aware that the issue has been raised at the Ministerial levels;

(e) If so, whether he was taken into confidence, before suggesting to district authorities not to undertake the fresh survey; and

(f) if not, the action taken against the persons responsible for misguiding the district authorities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) A suitable site has already been selected in consultation with the District authorities for installation of a VLPT at Basot to provide maximum coverage to Basot. Bhikiasen and nearby villages. Payment towards the cost of the identified site has also been made to the District authorities but the site is still to be handed over the Doordarshan. No fresh survey is, therefore, contemplated.

(d) Question have been asked in the Parliament on the matter but no Minister of the Union or the concerned State Government has raised this matter.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

News-item Regarding Frauls Involving Industrial Houses

*376. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to a news-item in the Hindu, dated 9th November, 1996 with the heading "It Unearths Major Frauds Involving Industrial Houses"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of cases of irregularities relating to sale and lease back agreement by Industrial Houses have been detected by the Income-tax Department. The assets in respect of which this kind of arrangement was made, were either over-invoiced or non-existent. In most of the cases, claim of 100% depreciation and lease-rentals were made, which, after concerted enquiries and investigations, were found to be falsely claimed as the assets did not exist or were of much lesser value. The Officers of the Income Tax Department dealing with cases of industrial houses, including those who owned the alleged assets, are taking appropriate remedial action in accordance with law.

All Party Meeting to Discuss the recommendations of Sengupta Committee Report

*377. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAIPATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had called an all party meeting to discuss the recommendations of the Sengupta Committee Report recently;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any amendments in the Prasar Bharati Act have been suggested in the meeting; and

(d) if so, by when the amending bill is proposed to be brought before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A meeting was held on 13th September, 1996 to solicit views of various political parties on